

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 USSS-00 A-01 OPR-02 OC-06

CCO-00 DHA-02 /069 W

-----051705Z 068684 /45

R 051350Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9862

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 2506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA

1. THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION DURING THE PERIOD FROM MARCH 25-31, 1977.

2. MAR. 25: AT APPROXIMATELY 1620 HRS AT CHIVILCOY AND J.B. JUSTO, MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES ENGAGED IN A SHOOT OUT WITH TWO PERSONS BELIEVED TO BE TERRORISTS. ONE POLICEMAN WAS SHOT AND ONE OF THE TWO CIVILIANS WAS KILLED. THE OTHER ESCAPED ON FOOT.

AT 2350 HRS, FEDERAL POLICE GENERAL OPERATIONS CENTER ORDERED ALL PERSONNEL TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO VEHICLES AND PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE CARRYING EXPLOSIVES IN PARCELS OR BAGS.

MAR. 26: AT 0105 HRS A BOMB WAS DEACTIVATED AT SARMIENTO 1592.

AT 2105 HRS, POLICE REPORTED THAT AT ARROYO AND SUIPACHA, A SHOPPING GALLERY, AN EXPLOSIVE WAS DETONATED, CAUSING EXTENSIVE MATERIAL DAMAGE BUT NO PERSONAL DAMAGE.

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AT 2230 HRS FEDERAL POLICE REQUESTED BOMB SQUAD ASSISTANCE AT THE PLAZA HOTEL WHERE A SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE WAS LOCATED. BOMB SQUAD EXAMINED THE PACKAGE AND IDENTIFIED IT AS AN EXPLOSIVE.

AT 2235 HRS. A BOMB EXPLODED UNDER A VEHICLE LOCATED AT ARCOS AND AGUILAR. THE VEHICLE WAS COMPLETELY DESTROYED. BOMBS ALSO

EXPLODED AT O'HIGGINS 1600; PICO AND GRECIA; T. GARCIA 2400;
LAMARCA AND BEIRO; ASUNCION AND B. BLANCA; SAN NICOLAS 3700;
AGUILAR AND CABILDO; MORENO AND LAFUENTE; AND OBLIGADO 2100.

MAR 27: AT 1700 HRS, BOMB SQUAD WAS CALLED TO ARGENTINE POLO
GROUNDS WHERE A HORSE JUMPING COMPETITION WAS TAKING PLACE.
TWO BOMBS WERE FOUND IN THE BATHROOMS OF THE POLO GROUNDS RESTAURANT
AND WERE DEACTIVATED.

AT 2100 HRS. A BOMB EXPLODED AT THE SHERATON HOTEL. THE EXPLOSIVE
HAD BEEN PLACED ON THE STAIRS LEADING FROM THE GROUND FLOOR LOBBY
TO THE FIRST FLOOR. IT WAS A MEDIUM POWER EXPLOSIVE AND CAUSED
MINOR PROPERTY DAMAGE AND INURED NINE PERSONS, NONE OF
THEM U.S. CITIZENS. AMBASSADOR RAWLS WAS STAYING AT THE HOTEL
AT THE TIME.

AT 2210 HRS A BOMB WAS DEACTIVATED IN A BAR AT CORDOBA 628.

AT 2255 HRS A BOMB WAS DETONATED IN FRONT OF A SMALL BANK LOCATED
AT PEDRO GOYENA 1200.

AT 2255 HRS SUSPICIOUS PACKAGES WERE LOCATED AT PARAGUAY 2437
AND AT SUIPACHA 1000, AND THE BOMB SQUAD DEACTIVATED AN EXPLOSIVE
DEVICE AT SAAVEDRA 1150 THAT HAD BEEN LEFT NEXT TO A VEHICLE.

MAR. 28: AT 2155 HRS AN INCENDIARY BOMB WAS THROWN UNDER A CAR
CAUSING AN EXPLOSION OF THE GAS TANK AND DESTRUCTION OF THE
VEHICLE. CAR WAS PARKED IN FRONT OF THE SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICES,
LAPRIDA 1818. AT THE SAME TIME TWO INCENDIARY BOMBS EXPLODED
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AT COPERNICO AND GALILEO, DESTROYING TWO VEHICLES. ALSO, A BOMB
EXPLODED AT GUIDO 1560 CAUSING MATERIAL DAMAGE AND INJURING
TWO PERSONS.

MAR. 29: AT 1625 HRS A BOMB EXPLODED AT JUNCAL 2600. BUENOS AIRES
CLARIN NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT AT 7 P.M. ON MAR. 29 TWO
TERRORISTS WERE SHOT DEAD IN A CLASH WITH SECURITY FORCES AT
CORDOBA AND CALLAO. OTHER PERSONS WERE INJURED; NO FURTHER
INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. CLARIN ALSO STATED THAT A BOMB
EXPLODED AT 3:30 P.M. IN A BUILDING LOCATED AT JUNCAL 1366 A
BOMB EXPLODED INJURING TWO PERSONS.

MAR. 30: AT 1500 HRS A BOMB WAS DEACTIVATED IN THE AREA OF THE
3RD POLICE PRECINCT.

MAR. 31: BETWEEN 0145 HRS AND 0735 HRS, INCENDIARY BOMBS WERE
ACTIVATED AT FIVE DISCO SUPERMARKETS IN BUENOS AIRES AND A BOMB
WAS IDENTIFIED INSIDE A SUPERMARKET LOCATED AT CANGALLO 1661
AND DEACTIVATED BY THE BOMB SQUAD. POLICE ORDERED ALL PATROL

CARS TO KEEP SPECIAL WATCH ON SUPERMARKETS AND TO CHECK SUSPICIOUS VEHICLES IN THESE ZONES.

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CCO-00 DHA-02 /069 W

-----051706Z 068934 /45

R 051350Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9863

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 2506

AT 1000 HRS AT LUIS M. CAMPOS 1175, A BOMB EXPLODED DOING ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGE TO A BUILDING.

AT 1115 HRS AT MONTANESES AND FRIAS, AT THE AVELLANEDA BRIDGE, THREE MEN ATTACKED A VEHICLE OCCUPIED BY FOUR MEMBERS OF THE PREFECTURA MARITIMA (COAST GUARD). THREE OCCUPANTS OF THE VEHICLE WERE INJURED. THE ATTACKERS, DRIVING A RED PICKUP TRUCK, OPENED FIRE ON THE OCCUPANTS OF THE VEHICLE WITH SHOTGUNS. POLICE RESPONDED WITH HELICOPTERS AND PATROL CARS BUT THE ATTACKER ESCAPED. ON THE SAME DATE, LA RAZON REPORTED THAT A GROUP OF TERRORISTS ATTACKED A POLICE PRECINCT IN THE MONTE CHINGOLO DISTRICT. AFTER THE CONFRONTATION THE JOINT FORCES DISCOVERED THE CORPSE OF A FEMALE TERRORIST WHO HAD APPARENTLY BEEN KILLED WHEN A BOMB OR GRENADE WHICH SHE WAS CARRYING EXPLODED. PAPER ALSO REPORTED THAT SIX RAILROAD CARS BELONGING TO THE SAN MARTIN RR LINE WERE BURNED BY UNKNOWN PERSONS.

3. RSO THIS DATE TALKED WITH AUGUSTIN ITALO MARTINI, COMISARIO INSPECTOR AND CHIEF OF THE EXPLOSIVES DEPT. OF THE FEDERAL POLICE CONCERNING USE OF BOMBS BY TERRORISTS. HE STATED THAT RECENT ATTACKS ON PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AS WELL AS SUPERMARKETS REPRESENT A DEPARTURE FROM PREVIOUS TERRORIST TACTICS. DURING THE WEEK OF MAR. 24 THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY 158 BOMBS IDENTIFIED IN THE BUENOS AIRES AREA. SOURCE STATED THAT THE MOST COMMON TYPE BOMBS
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BEING USED ARE SIMILAR TO A PIPE BOMB, 6-8" LONG AND APPROXIMATELY 3" IN DIAMETER. THE PIPE IS FILLED WITH LOW-LEVEL EXPLOSIVE MADE FROM GUNPOWDER OR BLACK POWDER AND AUGMENTED WITH ALUMINUM. THEY ARE ACTIVATED BY A 10-MINUTE DELAY MECHANISM, USING BATTERY CONDENSOR AND TRANSISTER. THIS METHOD IS SIMPLE AND EFFECTIVE AND SHOWS A CERTAIN DEGREE OF PROFESSIONAL INGENUITY ON THE PART OF THE TERRORISTS. HOWEVER, THE POWDER COMPOSITION IS RELATIVELY WEAK, CAUSING ONLY LOW-LEVEL EXPLOSIONS. THEY HAVE ALSO BEEN USING INCENDIARY DEVICES WITH A TIMING MECHANISM. SOURCE BELIEVES THAT THE LOW QUALITY EXPLOSIVE USED IS AN INDICATION OF THE DIFFICULTY THE MONTONEROS AND OTHER TERRORISTS ARE FACING IN OBTAINING HIGH QUALITY EXPLOSIVES WHICH, UNTIL RECENTLY, WERE FREELY AVAILABLE TO THEM.

4. SOURCE STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THESE BOMBINGS IS TO KEEP THEIR IMAGE IN FRONT OF THE PUBLIC AND TO KEEP THEIR POLITICAL MOVEMENT ALIVE.
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Message Attributes

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